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on the remote causes of disease
from insensible matters in the
Air

✓ They are ^{ly} ~~12~~ exhalations from the human
body in a living state, rendered morbid by previous
disease, or by confinement to the body. They
have been called by Dr Miller "Idiomiasmatic"
exhalations from their being derived

1
We come now to mention the effects
of the insensible qualities of the Air
upon health and life, ^{and of} ~~or~~ air impregnated
with certain foreign or extraneous matters
which are obvious to our senses.

These are st what are commonly called
marsh ~~and human~~ ~~or~~ exhalations.
They ~~former~~ are derived from dead and putrid
animal and vegetable matters - the ^{latter} ~~former~~
are derived from the human body in a
living, but morbid state. Dr Miller of
New York has distinguished ^{them the former} ~~these~~ by the
name of "Koinomiasmata" - which he
applies to exhalations from ~~the~~ matters in
public, or exposed places. - ~~and John Jones~~
~~name of~~ ~~exata which he applies to exhalations~~

✓ 3^{ly} The matter which produces the Influenza.

^{ly} ~~3^{ly}~~ ^{ly} Certain matters, which are generated by secretion
in the human body, and propagated from one
person to another through the medium of
the air. These are known by the name
of Contagions.

X 1^o Magnetized Air.

from private or personal sources. They extend to living dumb animals as well as to the human species.

✓ 2
5 ~~✓~~ Certain matters which float in the air which are discharged from the lungs in Respiration. These are known by the names of Contagions. These

are the Small pox, Measles, Influenza, the

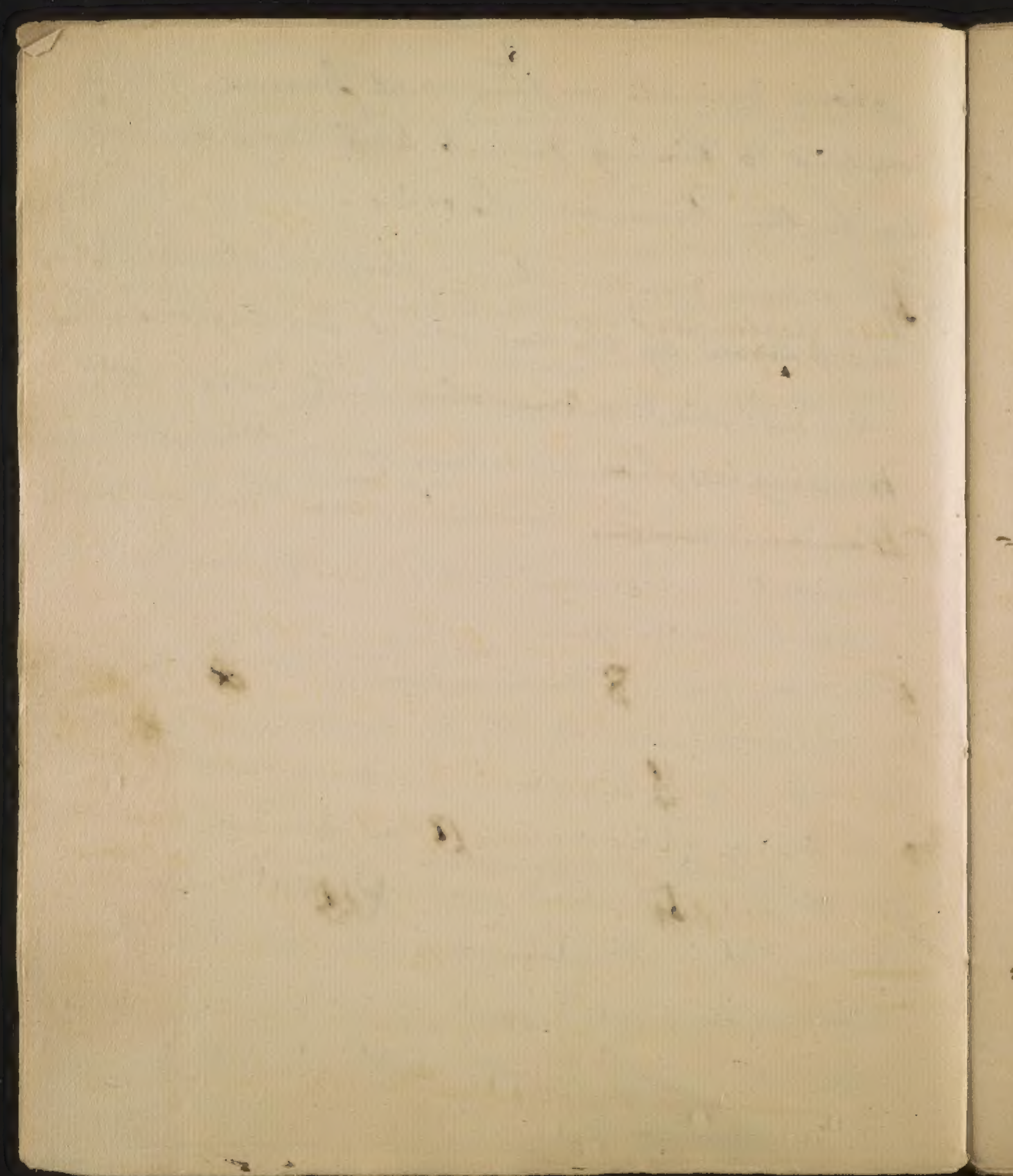
~~Hooping cough & perhaps some others.~~

6 ~~Phosphoric acid gas.~~ ^a Certain matter discharged from Charcoal, Calcareous substances fermenting liquors called Carbonic Gas.

7 ~~Hydrogen gas.~~ 8 Warm mutton winds. 9 A matter discharged from the earth by earthquakes ¹⁰ ~~or~~ vapor from springs 11 Sulphuric acid in a gasous form.

12 The air of a storeroom. 13 The effluvia of certain manufactures 14 Certain odors from flowers & spices. 15 Particles of sand ~~16~~ 17 The matter is:

forms the inflammatory constitution of the atmosphere, upon each of which I shall make a few remarks in the order in which they have been mentioned.



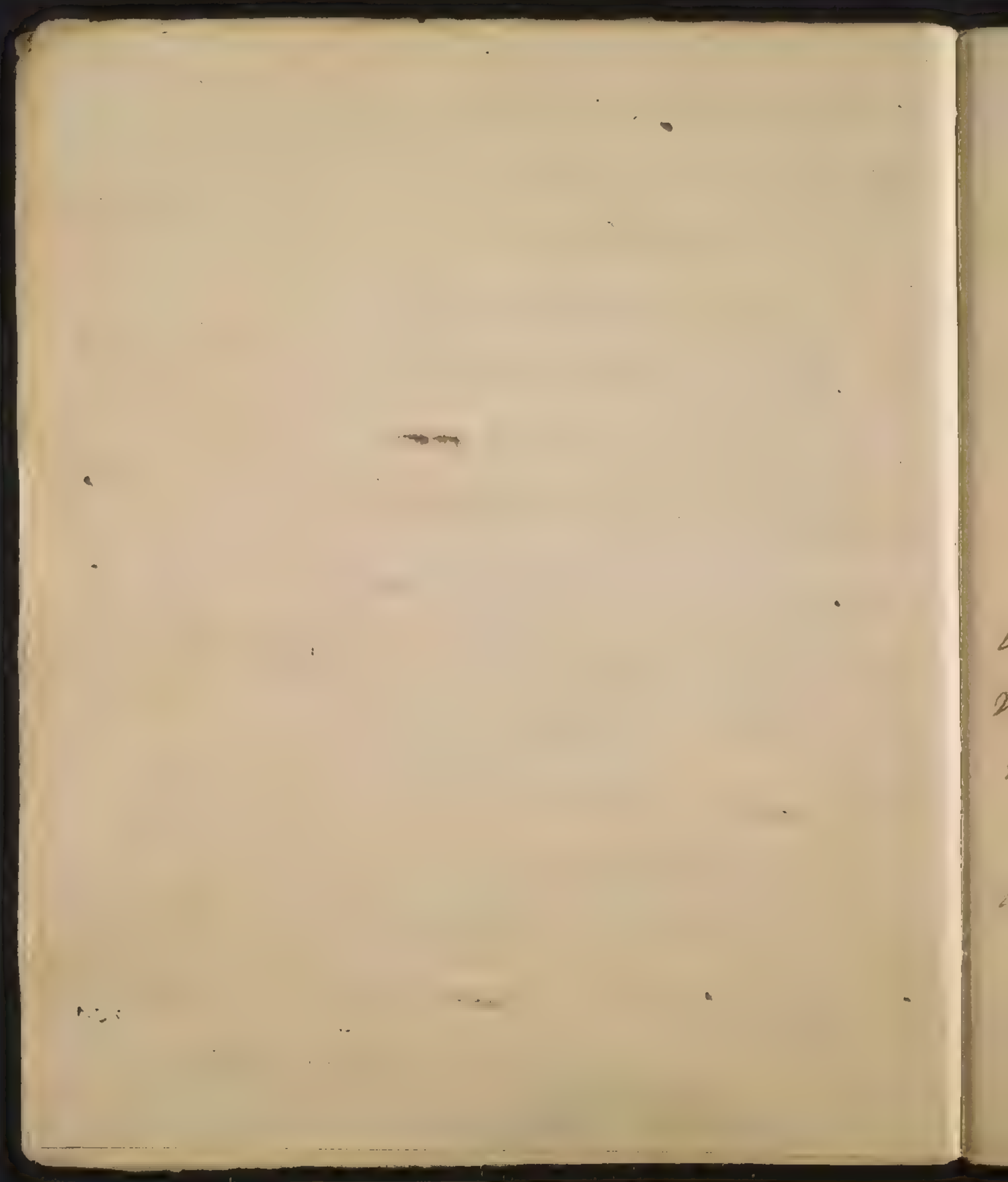
1 The Miasmatic exhalations. The most fruitful source of these exhalations is from low and marshy grounds. Three circumstances are necessary to produce them, viz: ^{1st} dead vegetable or animal matters, or ^{3rd} a compound of each of them ^{2nd} heat, & ^{3rd} moisture. Heat is most essential for the purpose of promoting putrefaction when it is at or a little above 80°: and when it acts upon bodies predisposed to it for putrefaction. To show that heat is essential to the production of miasmata, I shall mention the following facts. Many years ago the meadows ^{below} in this city were overflowed by the Delaware in the month of April, and many animals and vegetable substances were left on the

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meadows exposed to the air after the reefs
 of the river. In vain was sickness looked
 for after it, for as yet there was ^{not} heat
 eno^g to putrefy ~~the dead animals~~ the
 dead animals, nor to exhale them in
 the air, nor was there at that time any
 quantity of vegetable matter upon the
 ground to putrefy and mix with the ~~dead~~
 animal matter. Some years afterwards a
 similar fresh occurred in the river and the
 meadows were ^{again} ~~completely~~ overflowed in the
 month of May or June. From the feeble-
 ness ^{of the heat of that} ~~and short duration~~ of time, ~~and from~~
~~its having acted upon it~~ I guided by the
 event of the inundation in April before
 mentioned, I ventured to predict that no

V The truth of this remark is so well
established in Holland that they sometimes
check their ^{bilious} fevers by completely overflowing
the moist grounds from which ~~these~~ the
exhalations that produce them originate.
This was done some Sir J. Pringle says at
Buda, and with the happiest effects.

extraordinary Sickness⁵ would follow, and
the issue was agreeable to this Opinion.
many facts show that moisture is essential
to the production of malarial fevers.
The sun exhales nothing new & wholesome
from the dry ground, ~~for~~ nor from marshes
when they are completely covered with wa-
-ter. Dr Bruce remarks in his travels
that rainy seasons which perfectly covered
the low grounds of one of the countries he
visited ~~and~~ were always healthy. The same
thing is noticed by Dr Darville in his account
of the diseases of the negroes at Cayenne.
A rainy season is ~~very~~ seldom sickly in
the low countries of the state of Delaware,



but ~~and~~ it is often so in the high and hilly parts of Pennsylvania where the rain is retained in quantities sufficient only to create moisture, but ~~not~~ liquidity, that is, not completely to cover the ground. This was remarkably the case in the ~~the~~ years 1804, and 1806.

It has often been remarked that ~~when~~ ^{the} ~~the~~ ~~marshy ground~~ exhalations from ~~marshy ground~~ ^{have been overflowed} that ~~are moistened~~ with a mixture of salt and fresh water are more apt to produce fever of a violent nature than ground ~~moistened~~ ^{overflowed} only with fresh water. This has lately been noticed by Dr Hamilton in his history of the bilious fever which prevailed ^{some years ago} ~~between the~~ at Lynn Regis in England.

✓ Dr Lind remarks that the Sickness is induced
only by the first fall of the Rain, and suppresses
these first showers being with them miasmata
which had been previously ~~and~~ exhaled and had
floated in the air with the Vapor which constitutes
the rain. perhaps ~~they act~~ the rain acts
~~as~~ by opening the earth, so as to
permit it to exhale confined noxious
matters. A great storm Dr Huxham
supposes once had that effect in producing
a fever in the neighbourhood of Plymouth
in Great Britain:

✓ This fact was so notorious that the inhabitants predicted a sickly or healthy season from the different depths of the water below the surface of the earth.

Pringle describes a fever which prevailed
 at Brabant in the British Army at a time
 when the surface of the earth in that
 country ~~did not~~ was uniformly dry,
 and no source appeared from whence
 exhalations could be derived, but his
 John adds, that ~~the~~ below the surface of
 the earth about two feet ^{some} inches,
 there was a bed of water ^{apart of} which he supposes
 was exhaled thro' the earth impregnated
 with putrid matters, and that the fever
 was produced by them. A Dr Gordon who
 practised medicine at Berlin for several
 years informed me that a fatal epidemic
~~after a dry season of 10 months from~~
 yellow fever prevailed in that country ~~in the~~
~~the~~ between July 1804 & May 1805 in which 300 persons
~~year~~ After a season in which
 did but three inches of water fell in 10 months

V Those exhalations have been called the "Breath of the earth" to distinguish them from exhalations from the ~~surface of the earth~~ ^{the face of the earth}. There is ~~another~~ ^{one} error ~~fact~~ ^{in the} which relates

by Seneca in which a bilious fever was observed to prevail where no obvious source of exhalation existed. The fever in this case followed a high wind which elevated a quantity of putrid matters from the bottom of a lake and afterwards diffused them through the atmosphere.

It has this offensive odor, but they sometimes exist in a deleterious form without being perceived by the sense of smelling.

Marsh miasmata are most noxious in the mornings and evenings. They are least so in the middle of the day, and the middle of the night. In the former they are elevated above being inspired by the lungs - in the latter they are precipitated to the earth by the cooling of the midnight air.

The young and the robust are most

From the accounts I have heard of the low
& flat nature of that Province, I think it
highly probable that a bed of water below
the surface of the earth furnished the exha-

-lation which produced that fatal epidemic.
It is probably from figures made in the earth by great draughts
that they are often followed by ~~fatal~~ epidemic diseases. ~~It is~~
It is essential to the production of fevers
the matters which furnish
from marsh exhalations that they should
be in a state of putrefaction. To this they

There have been disputes about the extent
to which these exhalations may be carried,
and still retain their power of inducing
disease. It is clearly proved by Lempiere
in his account of the diseases of Jamaica,
that they communicate fevers to a distance
of nine miles where no obstacles intervene
to obstruct their passage. They travel in

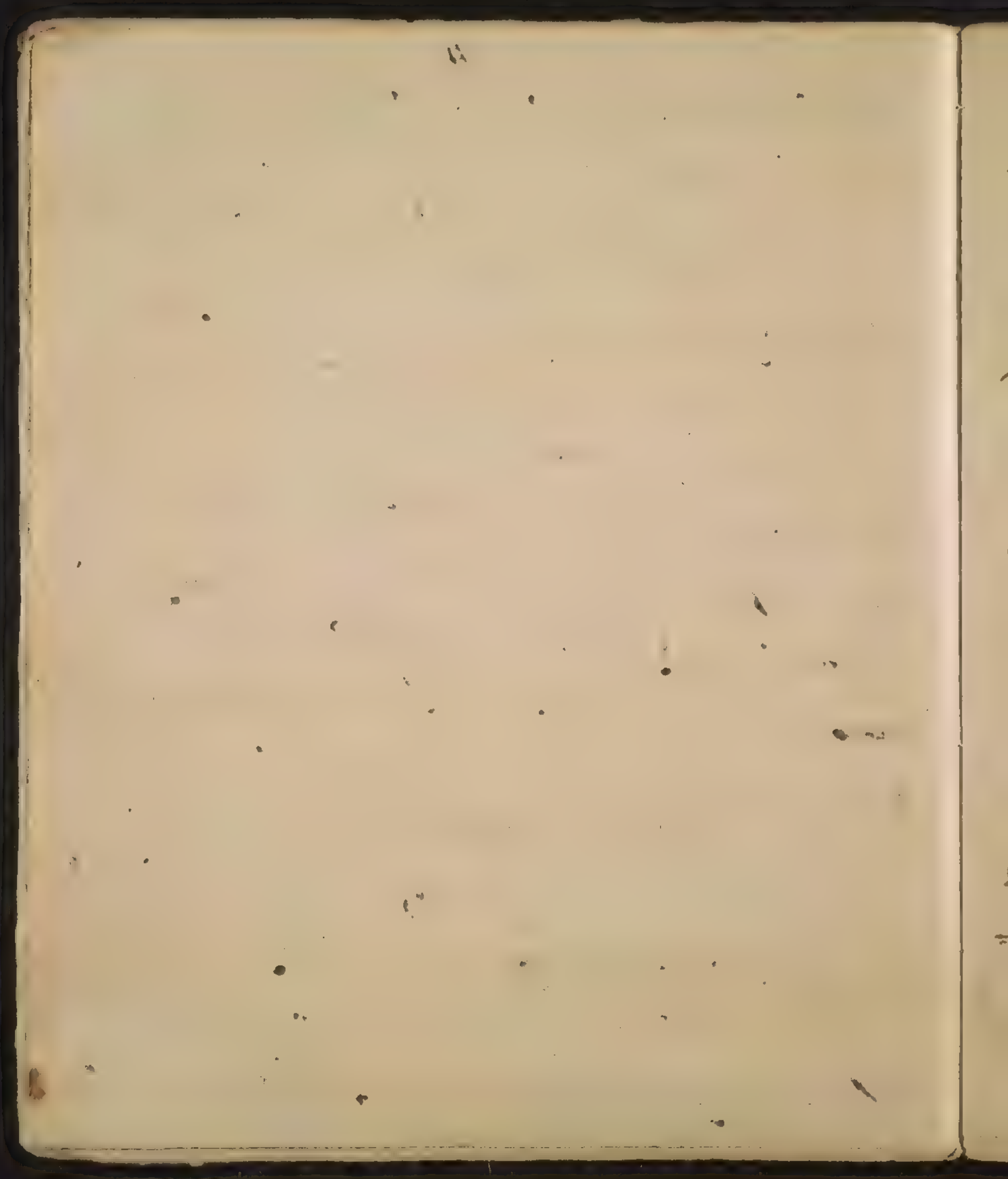
liable to be affected by them. More men are
likewise affected by them than women.

✓ From the account I formerly gave of
the odor of the sweet scented Shrub growing
~~under~~ 120 miles ^{up on} ~~deep~~ the ocean, it is probable
miasmata might be conveyed to the same
or a greater distance, provided there were no
intervening woods, hills, or houses to obstruct
them.

10

the course of the winds. This was observed
in this city in the years 1793 & 1805. V

There have disputes likewise as to the
time in which miasmata remain in
the body before they induce disease. They
seldom act without the concurrence of
an exciting cause - and this has been
observed to bring on disease ^{from} within a few
hours after the miasmata have been received
into the body, to 20 and 30 days, ^{and but according to} Jackson
~~top~~ six months. The Sporadic cases of yellow
fever which occur in all our cities in the
winter and spring appear to be derived
from the miasmata of the preceding au-
-tumn still floating in the body; but if it
be denied that miasmata do not exist
thus long in the body in a state capable



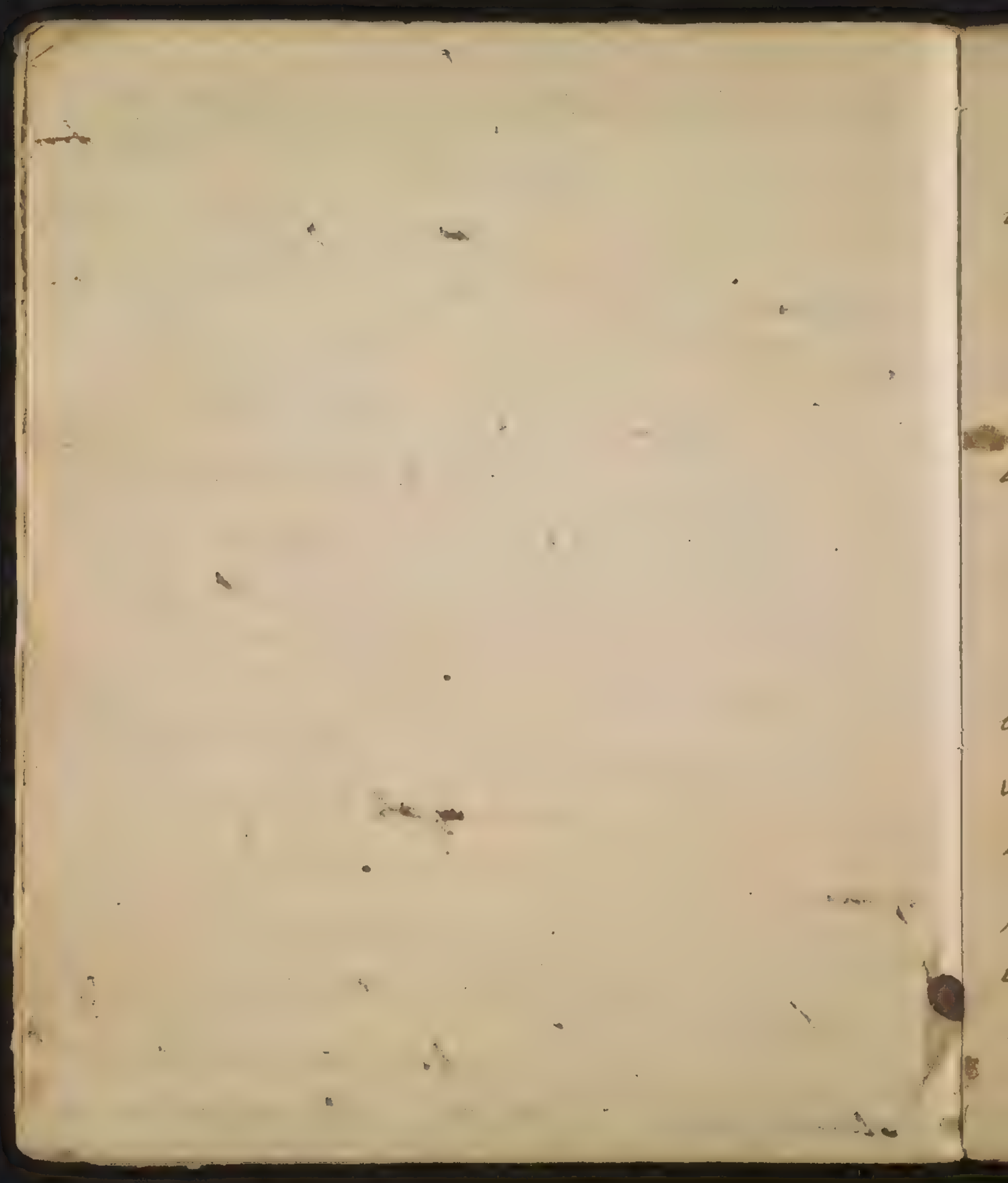
of bringing on a fever¹¹, they may become
the cause of it in another way that is they
may leave a predisposition to that state
of fever ~~often~~ in the system after having
passed out of it. The soldiers of the Royal
fencible British Regiment ^{after their return from Egypt} were affected with
ophthalmia on their march to Scotland. The
relator of the fact ascribes it to contagion
hiding in the cloaths of the soldiers, but
it seems to have arisen ^{some exciting cause acting on} from the irrita-
-tion induced in the eyes by the remote
causes of ophthalmia in Egypt. The Rev.
Mr Reed a member of Congress from Mass.
-achusetts informed me in the year 1799, that
the soldiers ^{who} ~~passed~~ returned from Sicily & Malta
where bilious fevers were common during
the revolutionary war, to the village in

✓ An intelligent Grazier near Darby informed me
that ~~the~~ The new comers from Ireland who work
~~see~~ in the meadows ^{below} the creek ~~near~~ this
city, often escape the lions from the first
year after their arrival, but scarcely ever escape
it on the second.

which he resided, enjoyed good health the first Autumn after they came home, but that they were all affected with a remitting fever the Autumn afterwards.

- That ^{this fever} it was derived either from mias-
-mata still existing in their bodies, or from a predisposition to fever left by their peculiar circumstances was evident from no person in the Village but the soldiers being affected with it. V

The Chemists have in vain endeavoured to discover the nature of the Composition of the marsh exhalations. The Indicators teaches us nothing respecting them. They are upon a footing with the Contagion of the small pox & measles, and with the odors ^{that} float in the air which sicken, or



13
erive us, but which elude the keenest
tests which ~~chemistry~~ ^{have been applied by chemistry} ~~has applied to discover~~
to discover them: —

The ~~detriments~~ ^{miasmata} act most
certainly in the body in moist and cool
weather. This was long ago observed in
the Asiatic and African plague, and has
been frequently observed in the yellow fever
of this country. —

Habit contributes very ~~much~~ much to
lessen the enervating effects of these miasmata
upon the system. Dr Clark tells us that
the same miasmata which produce bilious
fevers, Colic, Colic and Spasmodic Diseases
upon new comers, produce only a puking
of bile in a sickly season in the old
inhabitants of malarial, and all writers

✓ The effects of habit are still more obvious in the old inhabitants of countries subject to these exhalations. They become in time one of the stimuli of life, and hence we observe old people who to sicken and die when they emigrate from this influence to a healthier country. ~~more~~

~~It is a more malignant type in a dry than in a moist air. The fevers in the latter state of the air are generally of a Remittent & Intermittent. —~~

tells us that the miasmata which produce a yellow fever in a new corner in the West Indies, produce only a mild remittent or a less acute disease in the natives & old settlers of the Islands. ^{Keino}

The forms of disease produced by ^{miasmata} are much varied by Climate & Season. They are most malignant in ~~hot~~ countries ~~where~~ in which heat is not alternated with Cold. They are most ~~open~~ inflammatory in Countries ~~the~~ of a reverse Character. Fevers are more disposed to a Continual, ~~form~~ in the former, and to an intermitting form in the latter Countries. They ~~further~~ ~~spreads~~

Let us now attend to the manner in which they act upon the body.

I have supposed they induce disease in the
Stomach by acting directly upon it. I shall
say presently they act in a different manner. I am
~~disposed to doubt this opinion. I should rather~~
suppose by being taken in the stomach in a
moderate quantity, they would protect the
system from the power by their gentle and
inoffensive ~~stimulus~~ stimulus. — Swallowing
a few spoonfuls of Rum will prevent
intoxication from the smell of it, and
eating onions we know prevents even our
smelling them. — Carbonic gas so
fatal to the system when taken into the lungs, is
a ^{cardiac} ~~cardiac~~ medicine in the stomach. Why
will not misanthropes act in the same
way? ~~They induce~~

- In the Arterial system they produce the following forms of fever. Viz
- 1 The yellow fever, and the ^{first grade of the} plague.
 - 2 The inflammatory bilious fever, & the 2nd grade of the ^{plague}.
 - 3 The evil Remittent, & the 3rd grade of the plague.
 - 4 The Intermittent fever ^{These three grades of the plague are distinctly described by ~~several~~ late writers.}
 - 5 The chronic fever & the
 - 6 Febricula.

In the stomach they induce sickness - vomiting, and inflammation. When they affect the stomach in this manner, the disease has been called by the French physicians "a gastritis fever". It has

3 In the bowels they produce, Dysentery Colera morbus - Colic and Diarrhea. These have been called the Intestinal flats of fever.

4 In the Liver they produce inflammation,

✓ This is so common, that we are told the
old Romans seldom bought, or cultivated a
farm till they had examined whether the
situation of it were healthy, by first in-
specting the Rivers of the Domestic Animals in
its neighbourhood.

Suppuration, Obstruction - Defect of Secretion & excretion and preternatural secretion and excretion of bile. They likewise change the color, and vitiate the qualities of the bile, so as to dispose it to give pain in passing out of the body by its acrimony. These morbid effects of miasmata upon the liver are not confined to the human species. The livers of domestic animals that feed upon marshy grounds, or live in their neighbourhood are affected nearly in the same way, particularly with inflammation and Ulcers. ✓

5 In the Spleen they produce great congestion - enlargement - and sometimes complete disorganization. This has been proved by many dissections by Cleghorn, Poirer & Jackson. —

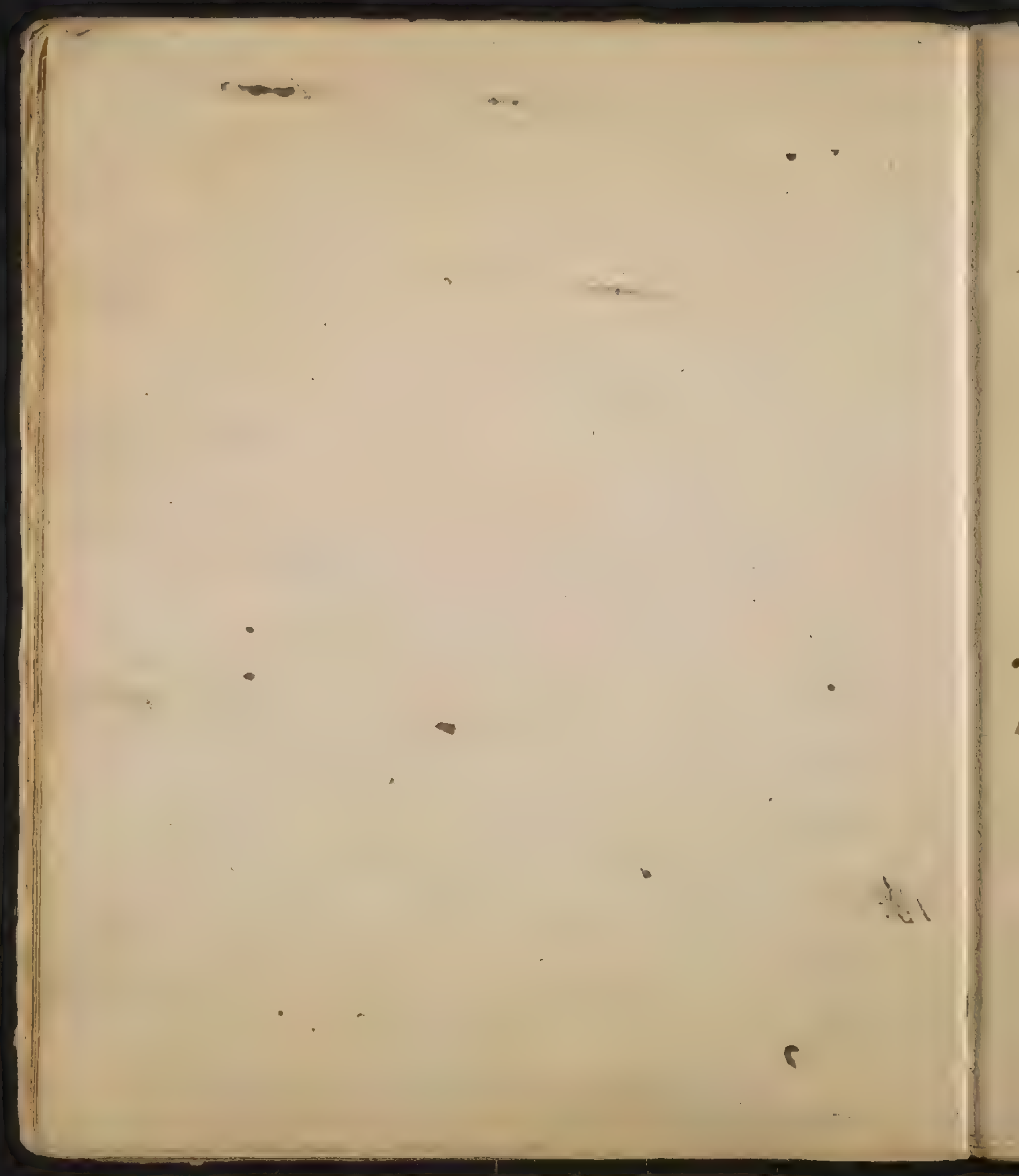
✓ 9 In the Throat & Mouth they
sometimes produce Sore & Ulcers. Mr
Webster ascribes the Cynanche Maligna
to the influence of Rhinomyiasmata
upon the System determined to those parts
by the circumstances of the sensible
Qualities of the Air or of the Constitution.

6 In the kidneys & ~~lungs~~ ^{liver} & ~~bladder~~ they
sometimes produce inflammation, and
obstructions. —

7 In the ~~muscles~~ ^{muscles} - nerves - brain
and mind, they produce convulsions - hys-
terical and hypochondriacal symptoms -
pain - inflammation ^{coma} - palsy - apoplexy
& madness in the order in which those
parts of the body and the respective dis-
eases have been mentioned.

8 In the Lymphatic & glandular system
they produce
dropsies and glandular swellings. ✓

9 Upon the Skin they produce prickly heat,
scabs - erysipelas - boils - carbuncles - &
petechial spots. In many instances they
produce chronic eruptions. The Leprosy
in formerly was derived from them



in several of the ¹⁸marshy countries of
Europe. Travellers tell us there are two
villages in the neighbourhood of Constan-
tinople which have never been visited
by the plague. The inhabitants of those
villages are covered with eruptions upon
their skin which are probably nothing
but an external form of the plague.
The dark and even black color of the
skins of the Africans is supposed to arise
in part from the ^{same} ~~black~~ colors of the
bile induced by koino miasmata, and
afterwards diffused through the system.
10. Besides all the ^{diseases} ~~various~~ affections which
have been mentioned, they produce many
local affections - such as ophthalmia -
pains in the head, jaws - ears - hips &
back. The ophthalmia of Egypt is evidently



induced by the same exhalations¹⁴ which pro-
duce the plague. —

~~I cannot take time to~~

I have hitherto spoken only of those
exhalations which are derived from low
and marshy grounds. They are the most
general sources of ~~the~~ the diseases ~~which~~
have enumerated. But there are many
Other sources of putrid exhalations which
possess exactly the same properties, and
which produce though in a limited
manner exactly the same effects. I
shall barely mention them, & refer you to
the 4th volume of my medical inquiries
for a more particular history of them.
They are the following matters in a state of
putrefaction 2 Cabbage. 3 Potatoes, ^{4 pepper} Indian
meal. 6 Onions, 7 Mint, 8 Caraway and



Arised Suds. 9 Coffee. 10 Chocolate Shells.
 12 Thrush, flax and Straw. 13 the Canvas
 of an old tent. 14 Old books. 15 the tin-
 ner of an old house. 16 Green wood confi-
 ned in a close Celler during the summer
 months. 17 the Green timbers of a new
 ship. 18 the Stagnating Air of the hold of a
 ship. 19 Bilge water. 20 Water that had
 been confined in hogheads at sea. 21. Stag-
 nating rain water. 22 the Stagnating Air
 of close Cellars. 23 The matters which usually
 stagnate in the gutters, common sewers,
 cloaks, and alleys of cities, and in the sinks
 of kitchens. 24 Air emitted by agitating
 foul and stagnating water 25 a Duck
 pond. 26 a Hogstye. 27 weeds cut down
 and exposed to heat and moisture near a
 house. The following simply animal



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Substances have been known to furnish miasmatic exhalations when in a state of putrefaction. 1 Thuman bodies left unburied after a battle. 2 Locusts. 3 raw hides. 4 putrid beef. 5 putrid fish, particularly a large whale. 6 putrid oysters. —

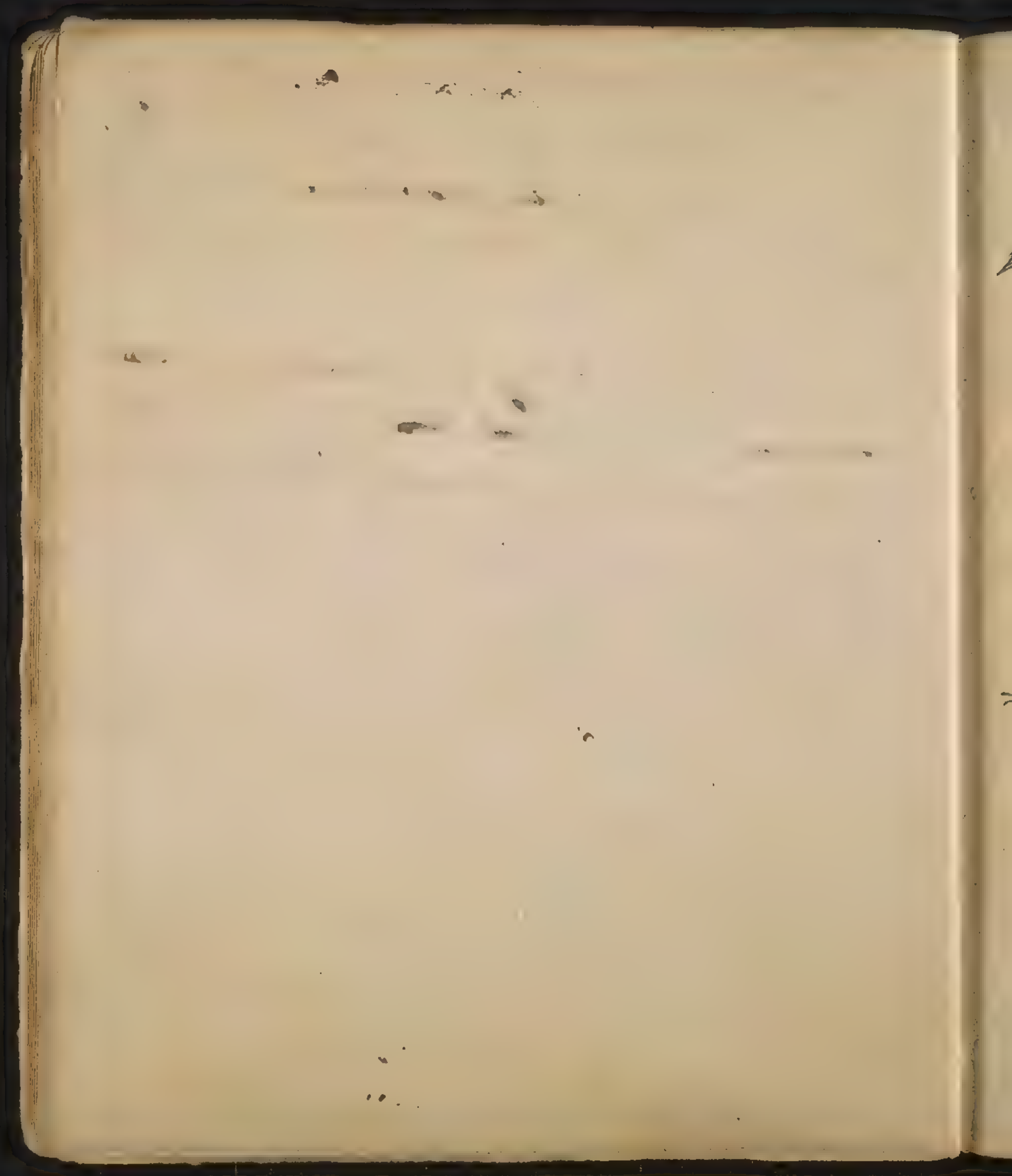
I cannot discuss this interesting subject without calling upon you to pause and reflect upon the facts that have been detailed in discussing it. They are important at all times, and in all countries, but at ~~ev~~ times, & in no country more so, than in the United States in which fever from miasmatic exhalations are yearly spreading distempers and death ~~are~~ throughout every part of our country. They are the

+ an exception from Dr Davidson in 4th Volume
of Inquiries. The same The beginning of
rainy seasons is however most likely in
Guinea according to Dalin - Perhaps from
the Rain being impregnated with miasmate
after a long series of dry weather and in
Guinea mentioned by Dalin.

22

more to be ~~done~~ studied, and treated, as
the most dangerous form of them has
been unhappily ~~derived from~~ denied to be
of domestic origin, but imported from
foreign countries: -

.. I have ~~to~~ They are ~~two~~ ~~by nature~~ ^{ch}
~~they are~~ destroyed ~~by nature~~ by nature, by
means of heavy rains, ⁺ by black frosts,
that is cold so intense as to produce ice,
high winds,
and ~~the~~ by a degree of heat so intense
to to dry up their sources. The plague
generally ceases in Egypt on the 17th of
June because on that day the land
overflowed by the Nile, becomes completely
dry. For an account of the artificial
modes of destroying these miasmata, or
of abating their noxious effects upon the
body, I refer you to the 4th Volume of



my Inquiries. — go to p: 72 n° 2. +

II he comes now in order to ^{mention} ~~treat~~
the ^{effects of} ~~impregnation~~ of the air impregnated
with ^{Idio-} ~~animal~~ microscopical, or miasmata
derived from morbid living bodies. —

The morbid matters which produce disease
~~is derived chiefly from putrid matter~~ are deri-
ved from the following causes:
1. The want of Cleanliness. This is a fruitful
-ful source of ~~for~~ disease. Linen garments
have been supposed to accumulate and
retain the morbid matter which is discharged
from the pores, more than woolen or
cotton, although the latter are supposed
to retain it longest. The fever of which
prevailed in the American Army in the
year 1775 were ^{derived in part from} ~~caused~~ chiefly to

v the army of the United States from
their being so much crowded were
the hot beds of a fever which destroyed
more than the sword during the
war which gave independence
to our country. Even the tents
when crowded with men sometimes
generated this fever - hence it was
remarked - our soldiers were most
healthy while their marches, or
other duties compelled them to
sleep in the open air.

the rifle shirt

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which was a part of the uniform of the Southern troops during that year of the revolutionary war of the United States.

2 Confinement in a crowd. Jails, hospitals, ships and even schools often become the sources of gross fever. The confinement and concentration of the discharges from the pores of the human body. The ^{military} hospitals of V

3 Low, rapid vegetable Aliment?

4 Putrid Animal food.

5 a scanty quantity of wholesome ^{hygienic} Aliment. 6 Chronic ~~liver~~ fevers.

8 Depressions of mind and

7 a sudden mixture with strangers.

Fromes of
* The same thing happens to cattle
when suddenly herded together. The
flocks which have been driven produce
the disease in those which have been
in a quiescent state. The perspiration is
changed in the former & thus induces the disease.
The disease when formed in any of the
above ways is propagated by what I shall
presently call the contagion of excretion.

with each other.²⁵ This singular source
of the origin of fevers was first pointed
out by D^r Blane. He tells that a fever
of the typhus kind generally followed
the mixture of the crews of different
ships, and even the admission of ex-
redits into the a ship. I have ~~not~~
~~assisted to~~ considered this
~~in this~~ sudden mixture of troops from
most of the States in the Union as
another cause of the fever which
prevailed with so much mortality
in the American Army in the year

✓ 1775-46⁺

From the enumeration of all these
causes of fever from human mismanagement
it is easy to account for its greater
frequency in the time of war, than

a note

+ It has been remarked that soldiers are more likely when they sleep in tents than in the open air during a campaign. Hence it has been said an inactive army is generally a sickly army.

in peace, for war exposes to the want of
 Cleanliness, to confinement in hospitals,
 jails, prison ships, or besieged towns,
 and even in tents,⁺
 to ~~scarcity~~ ^{unwholesome or scanty} Aliment,
 to chronic ~~bilious~~ ^{Hepatic} fevers,
 to the conflux of strangers, and to great

depression of mind. Famine & pestilence
 followed the footsteps

have often followed generally ~~been the result~~
 with his usual eloquence

of war, and hence we find Shakespeare
 describes them both as crouching like
 a pair of hounds at the feet of Caesar

while he was girding on his sword.

The Connection between those two
 calamities is a natural one, for

while war begets a ^{scarcity} ~~want~~ of provisi-
 -ons by drawing men from agricul-
 -tural pursuits, pestilence follows all

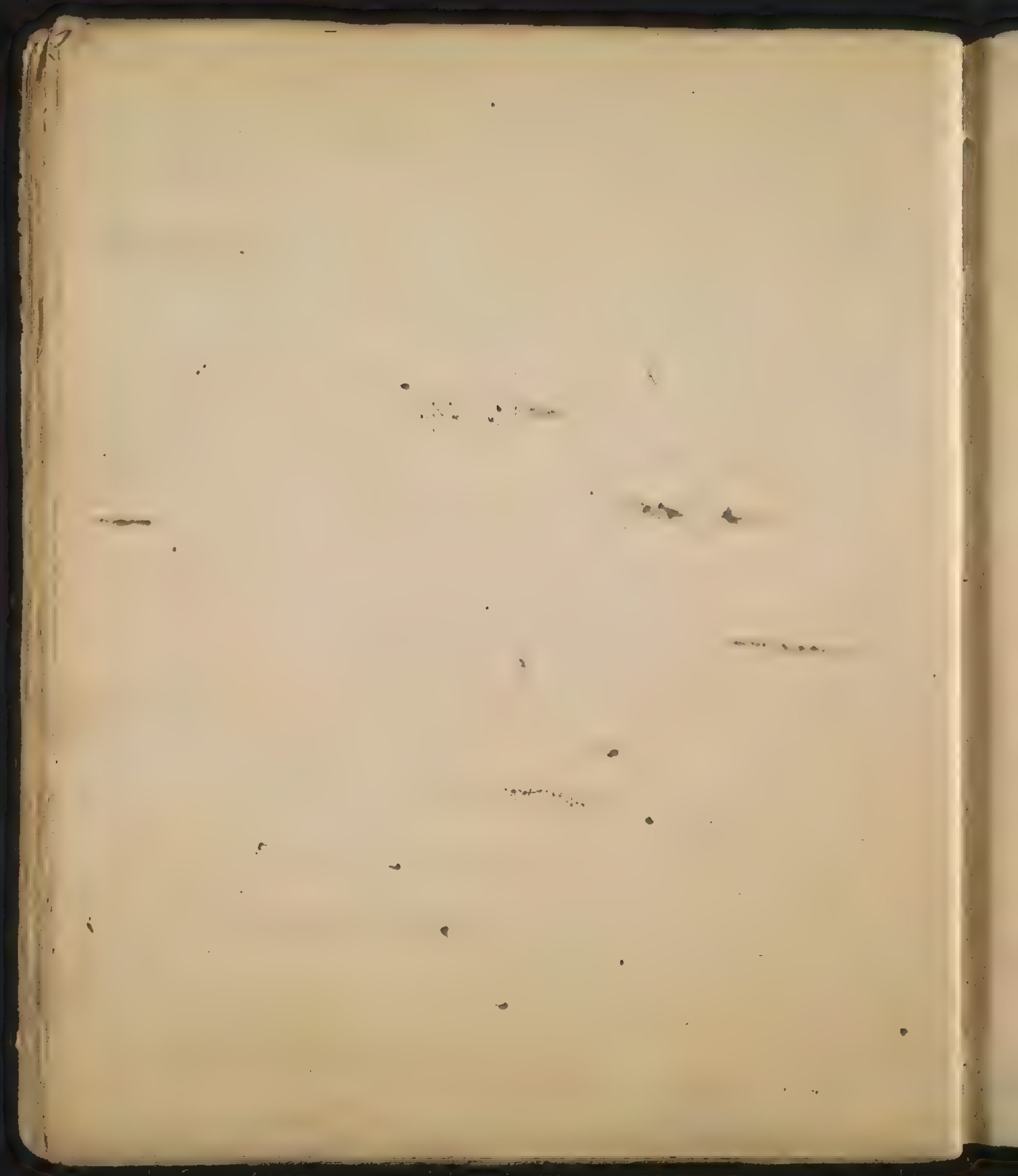
the other Causes that have been mentioned.

V induce disease when discharged from
a healthy person, and afterwards suffered
to stagnate until it undergoes a morbid
change, I infer from the known of
persons in good health particularly of
labourers producing fever in washer wo=
men. For this reason body linen
when laid aside ~~should~~ for the washing
tub ~~should particularly~~ should never
be ~~can~~ thrust into what is called a cloaths
bag or basket before it has been exposed
for some time to the Air. Urine in a
state of putrefaction is less liable to produce
disease Sir John Pringle tells us than any
any other excretion from the body.

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The following circumstances deserve our
attention in the history of human mi-
-asమా.

- 1 They are derived chiefly from ~~vitiating~~
perspirable matter vitiated in part in
the body, but chiefly by the changes
undergoes by ~~the~~ ^{the} stagnating
it ~~undergoes~~ upon the skin, or upon
the ~~body~~ ^{body} clothing of persons who
generate it. The other excretions ~~per-~~
~~seminate~~ in a putrid state will certainly
produce disease, but they are a much
less frequent source of it than the per-
-piration. That the perspiration may
2 They are generated more frequently &
are more active in Winter than in
Summer. Of this I saw many instances
in the American Army & ^{military} hospitals



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during the revolutionary war. We seldom
saw a typhus fever in warm weather,
when it was safe and agreeable to keep
the doors and windows of our hospitals
open. I recollect a ~~most~~ malignant
typhus fever broke out in the houses
of employment ^{in this city} (then a military hospital)
in the ~~year~~ month of April 1799. In
beginning of the
the ^{may} following, we opened the doors
and windows of the hospital, and the
fever nearly disappeared. About the
20th of May ^{after} ~~about~~ of unusually cool
weather obliged us to shut our doors
and windows, in consequence of which,
the fever revived with fresh malignity,
and carried off not only a ^{great} number

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of soldiers, but two senior surgeons and
one ~~senior~~ ^{eminent} ~~eminent~~ who attended them (and assisted
in a lighter degree
~~with them~~, nearly every other officer of
the hospital. Dr Blane in his essay
upon the means of preventing the Diseases
of Seamen mentions a fact which agrees
with the one I have related. He says the
Ship never always disappeared in Voyages
from England to the West Indies, the
scurvy they approached the Islands; but that
it always increased the nearer they approach-
ed the cold and moist shores of Great
Britain, ^{in returning from the West Indies.} ^{ascribes} he ~~ascribes~~ it very justly by
in the former case to the disposition
which sailors and soldiers ^{have} to be upon deck
in warm latitudes which prevents
the generation of morbid miasmata,

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